

## Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is Abbott changing about their formulas?

A: There are 4 changes that are happening:

1) Similac Total Comfort, Similac for Spit Up, and Similac Sensitive will be changing to 19 calories per ounce, instead of 20 calories per ounce. Similac Advance, in sizes not available through WIC, will also be changing to 19 calories per ounce. Reconstituted ounces and nutrient content will stay the same

2) They are changing the shield symbol on the can to an "OptiGrow" symbol, this relates to the DHA, lutein and vitamin E they add. They are not changing what or how much they add, just the symbol.

3) Similac Sensitive will no longer be available in concentrated form

4) They are staging their Advance formulas. Stage 1 is for 0-12 months and will be 20 calories per ounce; stage 2 is 6-12 months; stage 3 is a toddler formula. Only stage 1 will be allowable through WIC.

Q: When is all of this happening?

A: The new versions of their formula will start appearing on the shelf between April and July 2014.

Q: How does this affect WIC participants?

A: Montana WIC is phasing out these formulas. **As of January 1, 2014, babies will no longer be able to start on or change to these formulas.** If an infant was on one of these formulas (through WIC) before January 1, 2014, they may remain on them until April 1, 2014. By April 1st those participants will need a Similac Rx to stay on the formula until October 2014.

Q: Why is Abbott changing their formula?

A: This is being marketed as an "innovation", to make it closer to breast milk. They have provided some references to research, which suggests breast milk averages closer to 19 calories per ounce than 20 calories per ounce. This standard is not being adopted by any other companies or organizations at this point in time.

Q: Can we contract with a different company to get more formula options?

A: Not at this time.

Q: Can a CPA approve the Rx for the Similac formulas?

A: Yes. A doctor or other provider with prescriptive authority needs to write the Rx but a CPA can approve and enter into M-SPIRIT with the same procedure as RDs currently do for exempt formula.

Q: Can we get a list of affected infants, or alerts?

A: Yes, alerts will start appearing for all infants who are on one of these formulas.

Q: What if a baby is not doing well on Advance?

A: Educate the parent on normal reactions to changing formulas (spit up, gas, changes in bowel movements). If the parent feels it is an intolerance to lactose (rare), or a milk protein, they may try Prosobee, which is lactose and milk protein free. If the problem persists or worsens, refer to the doctor with the regular Rx form.

Q: Can we afford to pay for more infants to go on special formulas?

A: It is true that it will cost more for each infant who switches to a non-contract, exempt formula. However, we anticipate a relatively low percent of our infants will switch to an exempt formula. We will monitor this at the state level.

Q: Is there anything special to do in MSPIRIT?

A: Yes. The food items in the system for Similac Spit Up, Total Comfort and Sensitive have been end-dated for March 31, 2014. A new food item has been added and is identified with "RX" next to the name. For infants with an Rx, and who will be issued these formulas beyond April 1, you will need to add the new food item with Rx approval.

Q: How do you mix formulas on a food package?

A: When you add in a food package for an infant you are asked to select what formula you would like. Select one of the formulas you want to issue. Then, **edit** down the chosen formula and **add** in the second formula. For instance, if you are encouraging a family currently using Sensitive to try Advance before their next appointment, you may edit down the Sensitive to 5 cans, and add in 2 cans of Advance to try the week before they come back.

Q: Is this "Food Package 3"? Can we issue more formula (4-5 month amounts) if "no food" is checked?

A: No. This is not an "exempt" formula, and is not FPIII. If no food is checked or wanted, tailor down package.